IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A process for producing a fluoroalkanol ~~of the following formula 1, characterized in that in a reaction of~~ comprising:

reacting an alkanol of ~~the following~~ formula 2 with a perfluoroolefin of ~~the following~~ formula 3 to produce a fluoroalkanol of ~~the following~~ formula 1,

wherein the reaction is carried out while continuously adding a radical initiator and ~~a~~ the perfluoroolefin of ~~the following~~ formula 3 to the alkanol~~:~~

C1

CHR^1R^2-OH Formula 2

$CF_2=CFR^3$ Formula 3

$H-(CFR^3CF_2)_n-CR^1R^2-OH$ Formula 1

~~provided that the symbols in the formulae have the following meanings:~~ wherein

R^1~~,~~ and R^2 [[:]] is each independently a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-3} alkyl group,

R^3 [[:]] is a fluorine atom or a C_{1-4} perfluoroalkyl group, and

n [[:]] is an integer of from 1 to 4.

Claim 2 (Original): The process according to Claim 1, wherein n is 1.

Claim 3 (Original): The process according to Claim 1, wherein the radical initiator is a dialkyl peroxide.

Claim 4 (Currently amended): The process according to Claim 1, wherein the

C2

alkanol of ~~the~~ formula 2 is methanol or ethanol.

Claim 5 (Currently amended): The process according to Claim 1, wherein the perfluoroolefin of ~~the~~ formula 3 is tetrafluoroethylene or hexafluoropropylene.

Claim 6 (Original): The process according to Claim 1, wherein the reaction is carried out in the absence of any acid binding agent.

Claim 7 (Canceled):

Claim 8 (Withdrawn): An information recording medium having a recording layer capable of writing in and reading out information by a laser, formed on a substrate, which is produced by using a fluoroalkanol obtained by the process as defined in Claim 1.

Claim 9 (Withdrawn): A method of producing an information recording medium which is capable of writing in and reading out information by a laser, which comprises the steps of

a) coating a solution of a dye in a solvent on a substrate, said solvent comprising a fluoroalkanol of the formula (1):

$$H\text{-}(CFR^3CF_2)_n\text{-}CR^1R^2\text{-}OH \qquad (1)$$

wherein:

R^1 and R^2 each independently is hydrogen or C_1-C_3 alkyl;

R^3 is fluorine or C_1-C_4 perfluoroalkyl; and n is an integer of from 1 to 4; and

b) drying the solution on said substrate, thereby forming a recording layer containing the dye.

Claim 10 (Withdrawn): The method of Claim 9, wherein in said formula (1), n is 1.

Claim 11 (Withdrawn): The method of Claim 9, wherein said dye comprises a cyanine dye, phthalocyanine dye, pyrylinium dye, thiopyrylinium dye, squarilium dye, azulenium dye, indophenol dye, indoaniline dye, triphenylmethane dye, quinone dye, aluminum-based dye, diimonium-based dye or metal complex salt-based dye.

Claim 12 (Withdrawn): The method of Claim 9, wherein said substrate comprises glass, plastic or ceramic.

Claim 13 (Withdrawn): The method of Claim 9, which further comprises forming an undercoat layer on said substrate prior to forming said recording layer thereon.

Claim 14 (New): The process according to Claim 1, wherein the alkanol of formula 2 is isopropyl alcohol.

Claim 15 (New): The process according to Claim 1, wherein the fluoroalkanol of formula 1 is present in the amount of 0.01 to 1.2 mol per mole of the alkanol.

Claim 16 (New): The process according to Claim 1, wherein the total amount of the perfluoroolefin is from 0.05 to 0.5 mol per mole of the alkanol.

Claim 17 (New): The process according to Claim 1, carried out in a batch reactor.

Claim 18 (New): The process according to Claim 1, wherein the alkanol of formula 2 is charged to a reactor and then the radical initiator and the perfluoroolefin of formula 3 are added at the same time.

Claim 19 (New): The process according to Claim 1, wherein reacting is carried out at a temperature which is a ±30°C of the 10 hour half life temperature of the radical initiator.

Claim 20 (New): The process according to Claim 1, wherein the reacting is carried out at a pressure of from 0.2 to 1.2 MPa.

Claim 21 (New): The process according to Claim 1, wherein from 15 to 30% of the total amount of the radical initiator is added within one hour and the remaining amount of the radical initiator is added at a constant speed during the remaining reaction time.